DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 327 775 CG 023 079

TITLE Drug Impact Index.
INSTITUTION Regional Drug Initiative, Portland, OR.; Western Center for Drug-Free Schools and Communities.
PUB DATE Jun 90
NOTE 25p.
PUB TYPE Guides - General (050)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Community Characteristics; *Community Problems; Community Study; Community Surveys; Data Collection; Delinquency; *Drug Abuse; *Drug Addiction; Local Issues; Population Trends; Secondary Education; Sociocultural Patterns; *Urban Demography; Youth Problems
IDENTIFIERS *Drug Impact Index; *Oregon (Portland)

ABSTRACT

The Drug Impact Index provides a set of indicators designed to determine the extent of the local drug problem in a community. Each indicator includes a technical note on the data sources, a graph showing comparative statistics on that indicator for the Portland area and for the State of Oregon, and brief remarks on the implications of the data. The 10 indicators are as follows: (1) drug overdose deaths; (2) drug-affected babies; (3) drug use in arrestees; (4) drug-related hospital emergency room visits; (5) drug use by adolescents; (6) alcohol use by adolescents; (7) adult arrests for drug offenses; (8) juvenile arrests for drug offenses; (9) parent training participation; and (10) students referred for school policy violations. (TE)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED327775

REGIONAL DRUG INITIATIVE

DRUG IMPACT INDEX

Portland, Oregon

June, 1990

CG023079

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☒ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Jerry D. Kirkpatrick

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Table of Contents

Introduction		1
Indicator #1	Drug Overdose Deaths	2
Indicator #2	Drug-Affected Babies	4
Indicator #3	Drug Use in Arrestees	6
Indicator #4	Hospital Emergency Room Visits	8
Indicator #5	Drug Use by Adolescents	10
Indicator #6	Alcohol Use by Adolescents	12
Indicator #7	Adult Arrests for Drug Offenses	14
Indicator #8	Juvenile Arrests for Drug Offenses	16
Indicator #9	Parent Training Participation	18
Indicator #10	Students Referred for School Policy Violations	20

Reprinting of this Index in whole or in part is permitted with acknowledgement of the source. The Drug Impact Index was developed by the Regional Drug Initiative and the Western Center for Drug Free Schools and Communities and published in Portland, Oregon, in June, 1990.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Drug Impact Index is to provide a set of indicators designed to determine the extent of the local drug problem. It is intended to be used by the general public for an assessment of the degree of the problem, not as a measurement or evaluation device.

There is no single perfect measure that can provide a community with the impact of drugs at the local level, but there are acceptable indicators. The indicators selected for the Index are ones which are currently or soon will be available. Selection was based on three criteria. First, that the indicator is reliable; that it can be measured consistently from year to year. Second, that the indicator is valid; that it measures what it intends to measure; and third, that it is practical to collect.

This RDI Drug Impact Index is not intended to oversimplify the very complex issue of data collection and interpretation. Statistical interpretations can be extremely complicated. This Index is an effort to walk the fine line between the too simple and the too complex. It is anticipated that over time the RDI Drug Impact Index will track trends which will show the degree to which drugs are affecting various components in the community. It is also anticipated that new indicators may be developed in the future and will be added to this Index.

INDICATOR #1

Annual number of deaths from drug overdoses as reported by the State Medical Examiner's Office.

TECHNICAL NOTE:

These data reflect the number of deaths resulting from use of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamines, or a combination of those drugs. It does not include deaths resulting from overdoses of prescription drugs.

2

Annual Deaths from Drug Overdose

Source: State Medical Examiner

REMARKS:

There are a number of deaths each year locally and throughout the state from drug overdoses. The ups and downs of drug overdose deaths may be due to the introduction of new drugs. For example, in 1986, Mexican tar heroin was introduced in Oregon, resulting in a significant increase in deaths due to heroin overdose. In 1988, crack cocaine began to be used, and during that year 28 of the deaths were from using crack.

INDICATOR #2

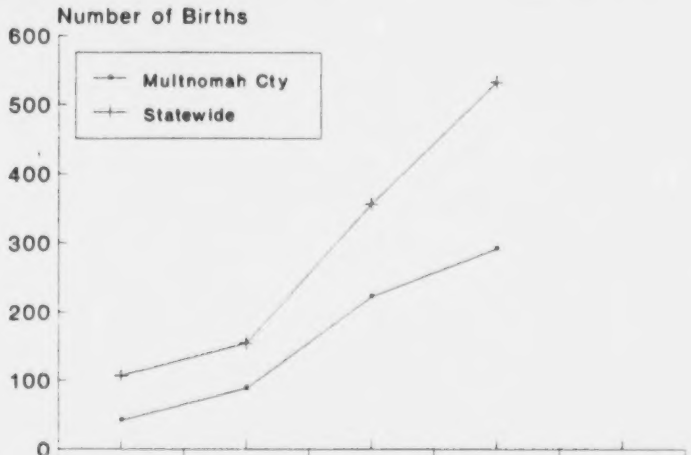
Annual number of births of drug-affected babies as reported to the State Children's Services Division.

TECHNICAL NOTE:

The numbers for all years are probably artificially depressed due to underreporting. Underreporting may result from the absence of consistent testing or reporting procedures.

4

Drug-Affected Babies: Annual Births



Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Multnomah Cty	42	88	222	291	
Statewide	106	154	356	532	

Source: Children's Services Division

REMARKS:

The number of births of drug-affected babies are increasing locally and across the state. The Office of Substance Abuse Prevention estimates that annually, on a national level, 375,000 newborns face the possibility of health damage due to mother's drug use.

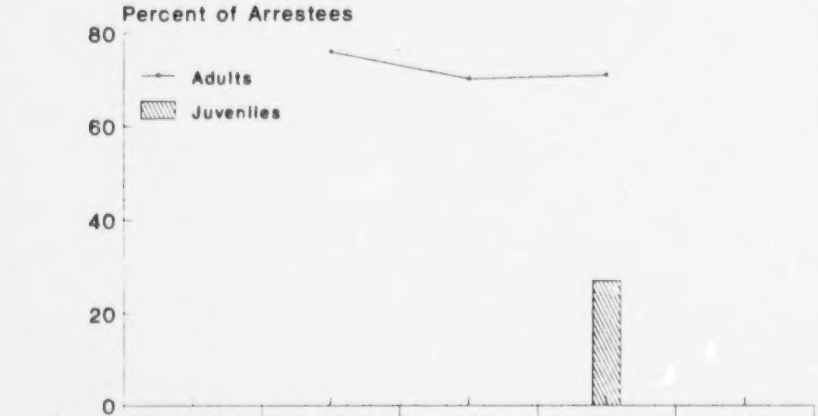
INDICATOR #3

Percent of arrestees testing positive for one or more illegal substances as reported by the Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) Project of the National Institute of Justice.

TECHNICAL NOTE:

These data are based on results of voluntarily obtained urine samples and anonymous interviews of male and female arrestees booked into the Multnomah County Detention Center for nondrug offenses. Data from 1987, the first year of the DUF Project, does not include female arrestees, though years 1988 and 1989 do. In 1989 juvenile detainees were tested under these same conditions. The percent figure used for this indicator reflects the percent of those testing positive for one or more illegal drug. No statewide data are available. Multnomah County is one of several sites nationwide selected by the National Institute of Justice to participate in the DUF Project.

Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs
Multnomah County



Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Adults		76	70	71	
Juveniles				27	

Source: Oregon TASC/DUF

REMARKS:

The high percent of adult arrestees testing positive for one or more illegal drug verifies the widely held belief in high rates of drug use by the criminal defendant population. The substantially lower rate among juvenile detainees is due to the exclusion of alcohol and tobacco in the standard testing procedure. Subsequent interviews of the juvenile detainees found 68% reporting tobacco use and 54% reporting alcohol use in the 30 days prior to the interview. This supports the belief that tobacco and alcohol are the drugs of choice for juveniles.

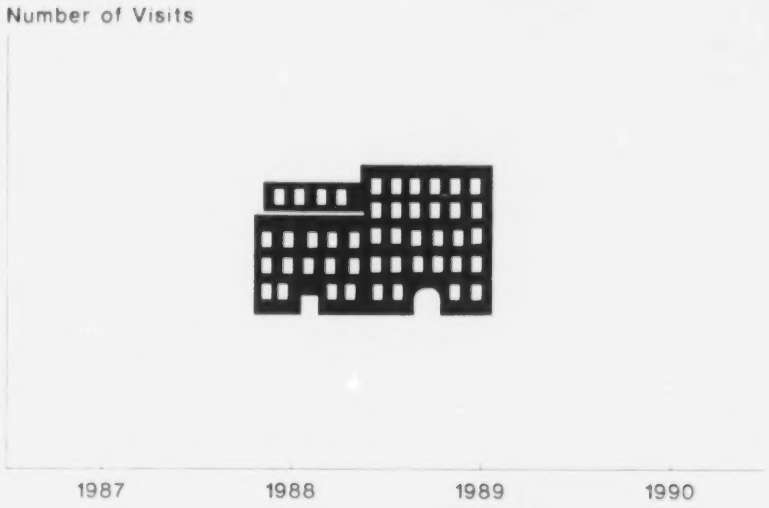
INDICATOR #4

Annual number of hospital emergency room visits for drug or alcohol related causes as collected through the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN).

TECHNICAL NOTE:

The Drug Abuse Warning Network is a nationwide data collection effort. None of the hospitals in Multnomah County or in Oregon participate in DAWN. The Regional Drug Initiative believes this to be a critical indicator and will advocate for Oregon participation in DAWN.

Hospital Emergency Room Visits
Alcohol or Drug-Related



Source: Drug Abuse Warning Network

REMARKS:

Currently, no local or statewide data are available.

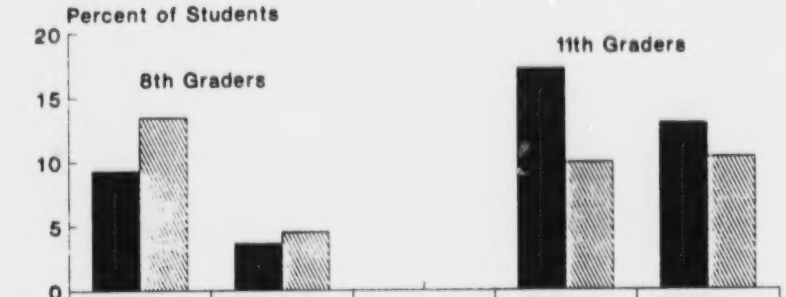
INDICATOR #5

Prevalence of drug use in the last 30 days among school-aged youngsters, grades 8 and 11, in reporting schools as contained in Drug Use by Oregon Public School Students.

TECHNICAL NOTE:

This is a self-reporting survey conducted throughout the state of Oregon in even-numbered years. The indicator is prevalence of use in the last 30 days because it is thought to be one of the most consistently reliable data elements. It also corresponds to a data element in the national survey published by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Student Drug Use in Last 30 Days
Grades 8 and 11



	Portland	Statewide		Portland	Statewide
1986	9.3	3.6		17.1	12.9
1988	13.4	4.5		9.9	10.3

Source: "Drug Use by Oregon Public Schools"

REMARKS:

Drug abuse among the 8th grade students is up in 1988 from 1986; however, among the 11th graders, it has declined. There also appears to be a difference in drug use between urban and rural areas as noted in comparing Portland data to statewide data. The slight decline in older students matches the national data showing a decline in use by 12th graders.

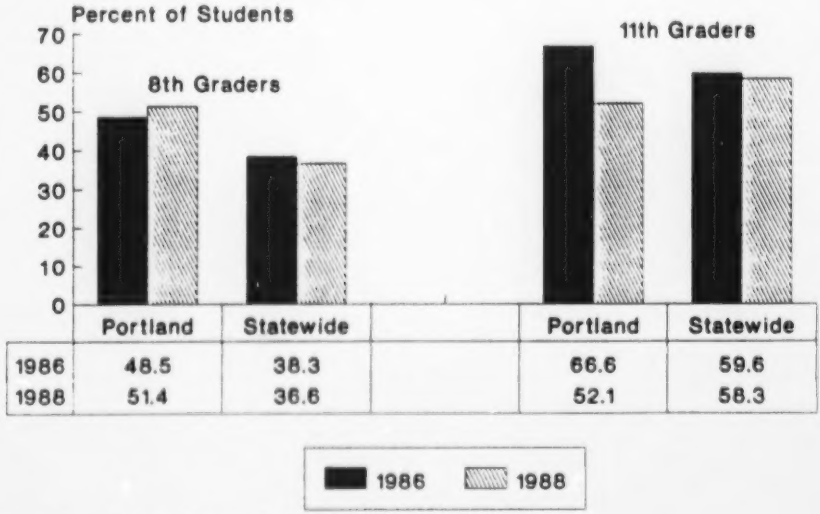
INDICATOR #6

Prevalence of alcohol use in the last 30 days among school-aged youngsters, grades 8 and 11, in reporting schools as contained in Drug Use by Oregon Public School Students.

TECHNICAL NOTE:

Because alcohol is an illegal drug for juveniles, its use is included as an indicator. The prevalence in the last 30 days is the indicator selected for the same reasons identified for Indicator #5.

Student Alcohol Use in Last 30 Days
Grades 8 and 11



	8th Graders			11th Graders	
	Portland	Statewide		Portland	Statewide
1986	48.5	38.3		66.6	59.6
1988	51.4	36.6		52.1	58.3

Source: "Drug Use by Oregon Public Schools"

REMARKS:

Eighth graders show an increase in use of alcohol in the last 30 days in the Portland area and a slight decline for the rest of the state. With older students -- 11th graders -- there is a slight decline throughout the state in alcohol use but a more significant decrease among the Portland population.

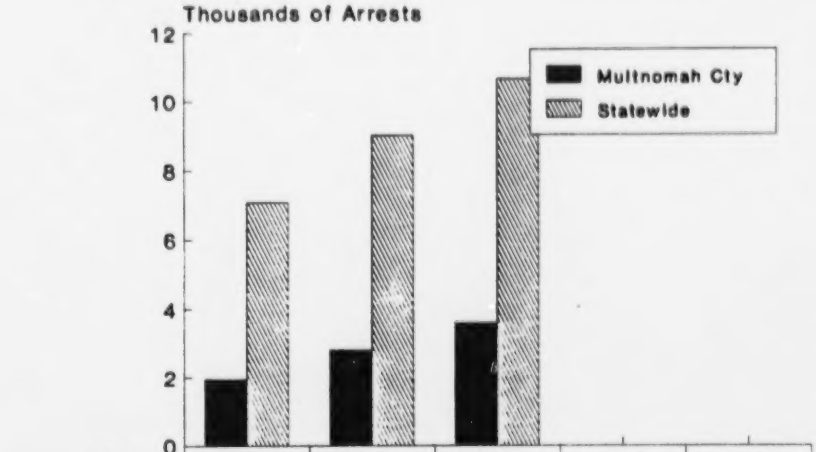
INDICATOR #7

Number of adult arrests for drug offenses per the Uniform Crime Report.

TECHNICAL NOTE:

This indicator is unique in that it is consistently collected on a local, state, and national level and is available for all states.

Adult Arrests for Drug Offenses



Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Multnomah Cty	1,941	2,786	3,572		
Statewide	7,073	9,001	10,646		

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting System

REMARKS:

Adult arrests for drug offenses at the local level are consistent with the increasing state trend. However, the rate of increase is higher at the county level than at the state level. A review of the national data shows a rate of increase more consistent with the statewide rate of increase.

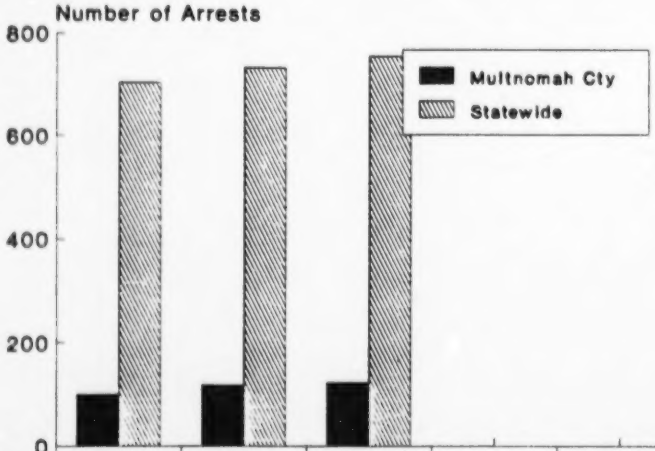
INDICATOR #8

Number of juvenile arrests for drug offenses from the Uniform Crime Report.

TECHNICAL NOTE:

This indicator is unique in that it is consistently collected on a local, state, and national level and is available in all states. Juvenile arrests also reflect the amount of law enforcement resources devoted to juvenile crime and may vary widely from community to community.

Juvenile Arrests for Drug Offenses



Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Multnomah Cty	100	118	123		
Statewide	703	732	755		

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting System

REMARKS:

This slightly upward trend in juvenile arrests is consistent at the local and state levels. A review of the national data shows a similar trend.

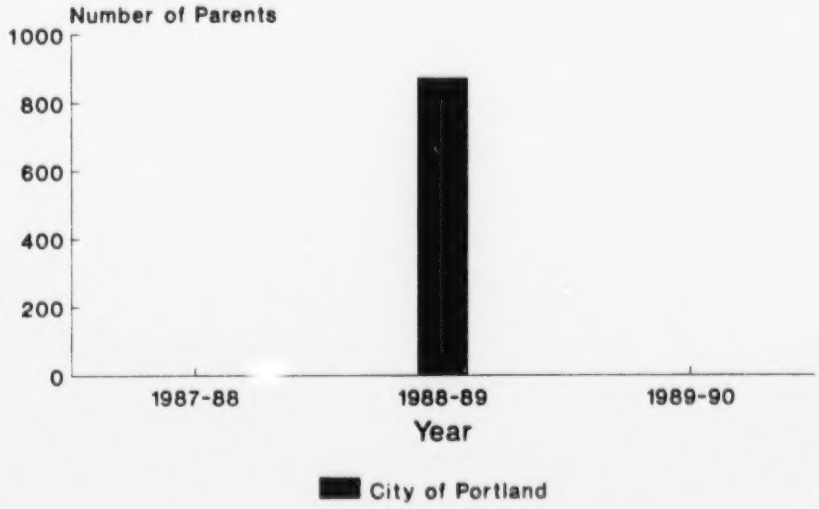
INDICATOR #9

Number of parents trained in "Preparing for the Drug (Free) Years" in the Portland metropolitan area as reported by Portland Public Schools.

TECHNICAL NOTE:

In the 1988-89 school year, in collaboration with the Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, Portland Public Schools began a special prevention program for parents of children in 4th through 7th grades. This represents one indicator of parental involvement in drug prevention activities.

Number Participating in Parent Training
"Preparing for the Drug (Free) Years"



Source: Portland Public Schools

REMARKS:

In the first year of operation 870 parents participated in "Preparing for the Drug (Free) Years." This series of five training sessions aims at increasing parental skills in supporting drug prevention in the home.

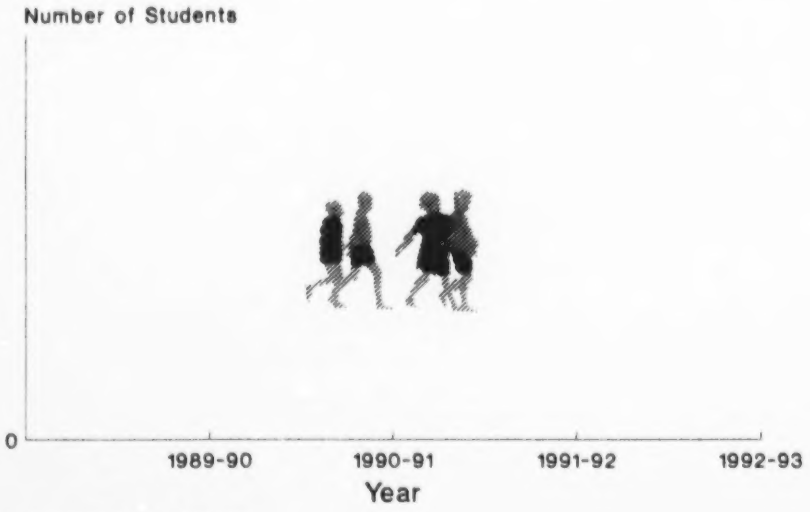
INDICATOR #10

Annual number of students referred for alcohol and drug policy violations in the Portland Public School District No. 1.

TECHNICAL NOTE:

In school year 1989-90, Portland Public School District implemented new drug and alcohol policies which require referral of students who violate policies. It is anticipated that some time will be required for complete and uniform application of these policies.

Alcohol and Drug Policy Violations
Number of Students Referred



Source: Portland Public Schools

REMARKS:

No data yet available.

ERIC® PROCESSING AND REFERENCE FACILITY
OPERATED FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
by ARC Professional Services Group, Information Systems Division
2440 Research Boulevard, Suite 400, Rockville, Maryland 20850-3238

ERIC PROCESSING AND REFERENCE FACILITY
ACQUISITIONS DEPT.
2440 RESEARCH BLVD., SUITE 400
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

For additional information contact:

Regional Drug Initiative
426 S.W. Stark Street
Sixth Floor
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 248-3691

Western Center for Drug-Free Schools and Communities
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
101 S.W. Main St. 500
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 275-9475

Printed on recycled paper